



AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES  
*of Connecticut*

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE  
REGARDING COMMITTEE BILL 5051  
March 11, 2013

Good morning, my name is Paul Brady. I am the Executive Director of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Connecticut, representing some 90 consulting engineering firms in the state. I would like to testify about Committee Bill 5051, AN ACT EXPANDING MUNICIPAL AND STATE REVERSE AUCTION AUTHORITY TO INCLUDE THE PURCHASE OF SERVICES.

The bill would authorize state agencies, municipalities and school districts to use reverse auctions to award a contract for services. If used to procure professional services, this legislation sacrifices quality and safety by allowing government agencies to base their selection on the lowest bid, regardless of whether the winner bidder is capable of delivering a quality project on time and on budget.

ACEC Connecticut understands the need for fiscal responsibility during these tough economic times and, in this regard, reverse auctions may have applicability for the purchase of goods and non-technical services. However, such a process has no place in the procurement of professional services, such as engineering.

Reverse auction for professional design services are prohibited by federal law for projects that include federal funding, thus restricting the usefulness of this proposed legislation.

This bill already excludes construction and construction management services. It should also exclude professional design services such as engineering, architecture, land surveying and landscape architecture.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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